

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

It should be appreciated at the outset that while the present invention relates to a “Means for Transporting a Microscope”, the assignees of the present application for patent have developed certain other improvements to microscopes described in United States ~~patent application~~ entitled Patent Application No. 10/810,346, entitled, “Interchangeable Microscope Drive Stage Assembly”; No. 10/811,346, entitled, “Releasable/Interchangeable Fine Focus Knob for a Microscope”; No. 10/811,344, entitled, “Ergonomically Arranged Object Adjustment Controls”; No. 10/810,979, entitled, “Shielded-Ergonomic Microscope Stages” ~~and ;~~ and No. 10/810,980, entitled, “Lamp Assembly for a Microscope”, which applications ~~[[are]]~~ were filed March 26, 2004 concurrently herewith by the assignees of the present application for patent, which applications are incorporated herewith by reference in their entireties.

Please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

In the embodiment illustrated in Figures 1-4, recessed portion 36 comprises a plurality of walls 40, which are substantially planar and which gradually slope from interior surface 32 to inner recess surface 38 to form ~~[[and]]~~ an indentation. Hence, if one were to view the recessed portion of Figure 3 from the side, the recessed portion would appear as an arcuately-shaped trapezoid whose two parallel sides (interior surface 32 and inner recess surface 38) followed the curvature of microscope arm 30. It should be appreciated by those having ordinary skill in the art that by "substantially planar" it is meant that at least a portion of the walls and surfaces of the recessed portion comprise a planar surface. For example, walls 40 are "substantially" planar in that they are planar except for that portion where they meet with recess inner surface 38 and/or interior surface 32 wherein at which point they may be curved for improving ergonomics.

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Additionally, while walls 40 are described as gradually sloping from interior surface 32 to inner recess surface 38, and/or vice-versa, walls 40 may slope as desired. Additionally, walls 40, interior surface 32 and/or inner recess surface 38 may comprise a textured surface, for example a knurled surface, textured painted surface, [[etc.]] etc., for increasing the static coefficient of friction thereof such that the force of friction between the recessed portion and hand 46 may be increased.